

# Groton Daily Independent

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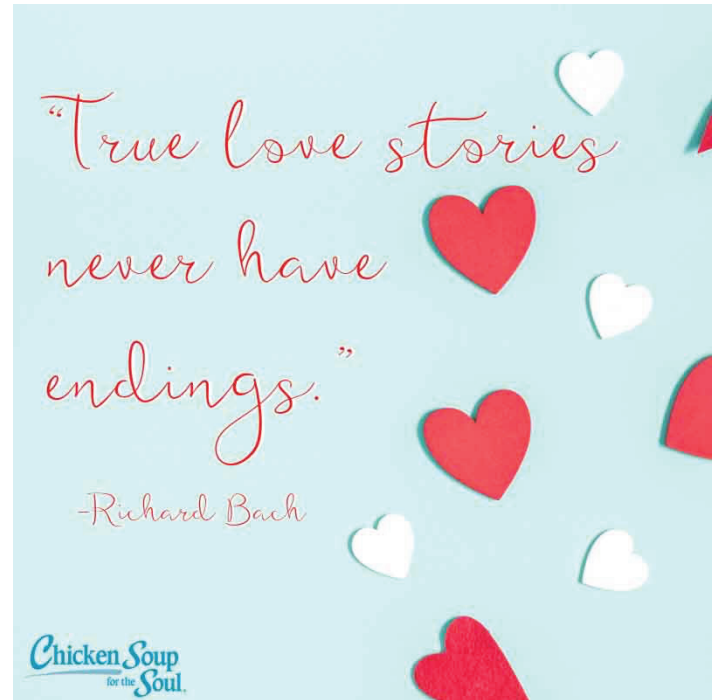
**OPEN:** **Recycling Trailer in Groton**  
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

## First reading give to 2020 Budget

The Groton City Council gave first reading to the 2020 budget of \$1.67 million. That breaks down to \$462,954 for general government, \$411,504 for public safety, \$325,360 for public works, \$6,450 for health and welfare, \$212,410 for culture and recreation, \$14,470 for conservation and development, \$237,500 for debt service and \$50 for liquor.

The September meeting dates have been moved to September 10 and September 24.

And that was it!



## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Aug. 21 ..... Faculty Inservice

Aug. 22 ..... 1st Day of School

## **OIL BAILOUTS FORCE POET TO LOWER PRODUCTION FAMILY FARMERS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES SUFFER**

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

CLOVERDALE, IN (August 20, 2019) – POET announced today it will idle production at its bioprocessing facility in Cloverdale, IN due to recent decisions by the Administration regarding SREs. The process to idle the plant will take several weeks, after which the plant will cease processing of over 30 million bushels of corn annually and hundreds of local jobs will be impacted.

POET has reduced production at half of its biorefineries, with the largest drops taking place in Iowa and Ohio. As a result, numerous jobs will be consolidated across POET's 28 biorefineries and corn processing will drop by an additional 100 million bushels across Iowa, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Missouri.

"The Renewable Fuel Standard was designed to increase the use of clean, renewable biofuels and generate grain demand for farmers. Our industry invested billions of dollars based on the belief that oil could not restrict access to the market and EPA would stand behind the intent of the Renewable Fuel Standard. Unfortunately, the oil industry is manipulating the EPA and is now using the RFS to destroy demand for biofuels, reducing the price of commodities and gutting rural economies in the process," said POET Chairman and CEO, Jeff Broin.

The RFS authorizes small refinery exemptions for refiners that (1) process less than 75,000 barrels of petroleum a day and (2) demonstrate "disproportionate economic hardship." Over the past two years, the EPA has issued waivers to refineries owned by ExxonMobil, Chevron, and other large oil companies—none of which are small and none of which have economic hardship.

EPA's mismanagement of SREs has created an artificial cap on domestic demand for ethanol and driven RIN values to near-zero, which weakens the incentive for retailers to offer higher blends. Oil is making billions of dollars, yet still using EPA to stop biofuels growth by handing out hardship waivers to some of the wealthiest companies in the world, in contradiction with President Trump's public comments. So far, the EPA has cut biofuels demand by 4 billion gallons and reduced demand for corn by 1.4 billion bushels, causing severe damage in rural America.

"POET made strategic decisions to support President Trump's goal of boosting the farm economy. However, these goals are contradicted by bailouts to oil companies. The result is pain for Midwest farmers and the reduction of hundreds of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars of economic activity across Indiana," said POET President and COO, Jeff Lutt

The recent announcement of 31 new waivers comes in steep contrast to the President's roll out of year-round E15 earlier this summer. The SREs are wiping out any near-term growth potential for year-round E15 and challenging the President's promises made to family farmers and rural communities. The President now has the opportunity to show his leadership on this issue and turnaround the rural economy.

"My long term fear isn't for the biofuels industry, it's for rural America. POET can continue to produce ethanol with cheap grain, but we don't want to lose our family farmers. The EPA has robbed rural America, and it's time for farmers across the Heartland to fight for their future" said POET Chairman and CEO Jeff Broin.

## We need our farmers.

We need them physically strong. We need them mentally strong.

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Northeastern Mental Health Center is now offering counseling services for farmers and their families-**at no cost.**

With the current state of the industry, we understand that farm families can feel overwhelmed in times of stress, instability, and uncertainty.

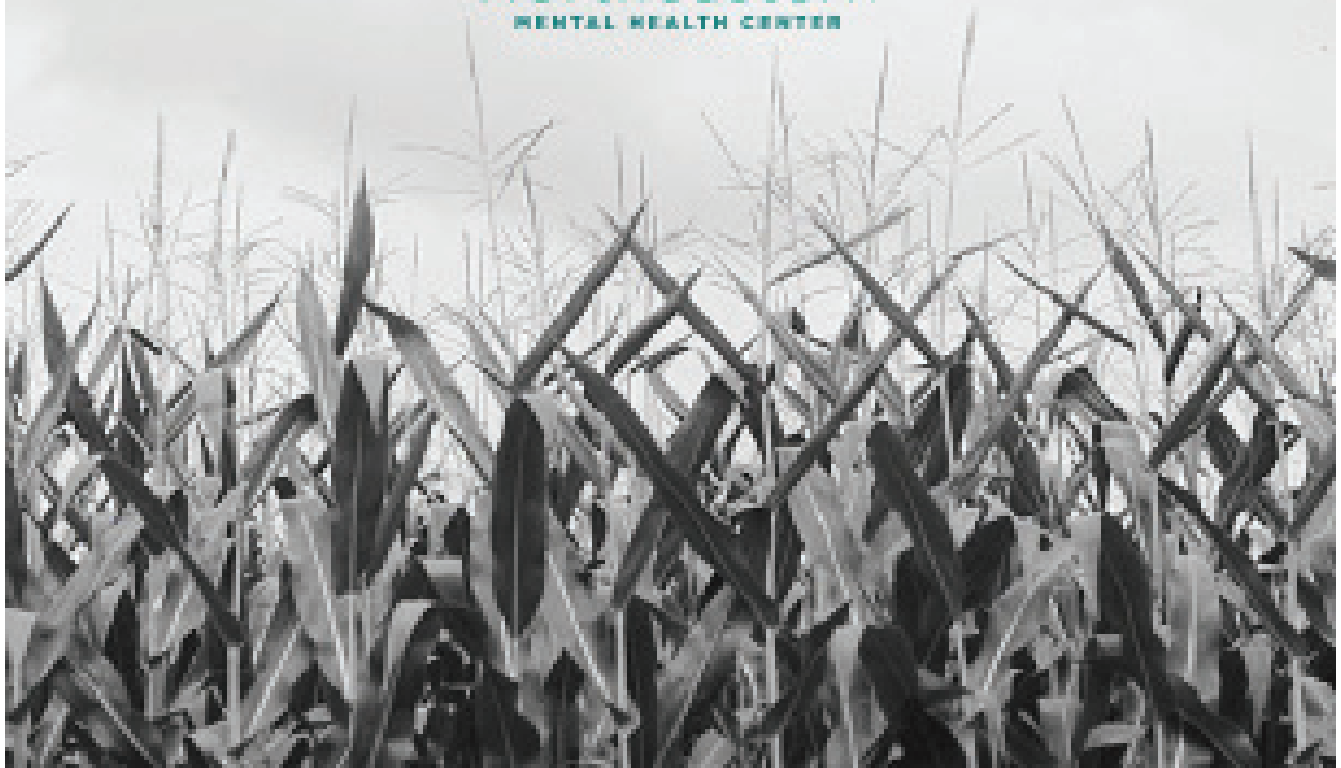
We're here to help.

Call 605-225-1010 for more information.

Northeastern Mental Health Center services the counties of Brown, Campbell, Day, Edmunds, Faulk, Marshall, McPherson, Potter, Spink and Wakarusa.



Northeastern  
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER



## TOP 11 IN CLASS 11B

BEST FOOTBALL PLAYERS IN SOUTH DAKOTA 11B

**1. NASH HUTMACHER**  
CHAMBERLAIN

**2. RYDER KIRSCH**  
ST. THOMAS MORE

**3. JESSE HASTINGS**  
MT. VERNON/PLANK

**4. BRADY HAWKINS**  
BRIDGEWATER-EMERY/ETHAN

**5. MAX BALOUN**  
REDFIELD/DOLAND

**6. BRADY FRITZ**  
WINNER

**7. GRANT HUBER**  
ST. THOMAS MORE

**8. JONATHAN DOEDEN**  
GROTON AREA

**9. DYLAN GABRIEL**  
STANLEY COUNTY

**10. JAXTON SCHILLER**  
SIOUX VALLEY

**11. CADEN HALSEY**  
MOBRIDGE-POLLOCK

**NASH HUTMACHER**  
CHAMBERLAIN

RECENTLY VERBALLY  
COMMITTED TO PLAY DL  
AT NEBRASKA



### Service Notice: Julius Kolb

Julius Junior Kolb, age 94+, passed away on Sunday, August 18, 2019 at the Bethesda Nursing Home in Webster.

Visitation will be at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel from 5-7 p.m. on Friday with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held at the chapel at 11:00 a.m. with visitation one hour prior. Rev. Lloyd Redhage will officiate. Private family burial will be at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

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## Groton City July Financial Report

July 2019

1st State Bank Checking Acct	\$ 1,358,016.33
General Cash	\$ 300.00
SD FIT Acct	\$ 1,437,437.68
1st State Bank Water CD	\$ 82,418.00
BB Trust CD	\$ 1,500.00
SD FIT CD	\$ 100,000.00
Cemetery Perp Care CD	\$ 32,876.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,012,548.70</b>

Invested In		
Cash	\$ 300.00	0.01%
1st State Bank	\$ 1,474,811.02	48.96%
SD Fit	\$ 1,537,437.68	51.03%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,012,548.70</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

	Beginning	Receipts	Expenditures	Transfers	Ending
	Cash Balance				Cash Balance
General	\$ 905,406.49	\$ 66,034.98	\$ 181,635.79		\$ 789,805.68
Bed, Board, Booze Tax	\$ 38,757.06	\$ 2,291.07	\$ -		\$ 41,048.13
Baseball Uniforms	\$ 1,710.20				\$ 1,710.20
Airport	\$ 8,725.47	\$ -	\$ 4,819.37		\$ 3,906.10
**Debt Service	\$ 323,106.47	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 323,106.47
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$ 34,706.69				\$ 34,706.69
Water Tower	\$ 180,000.00				\$ 180,000.00
Water	\$ 171,465.43	\$ 31,587.49	\$ 24,152.85		\$ 178,900.07
Electric	\$ 1,027,002.84	\$ 123,240.78	\$ 99,480.54		\$ 1,050,763.08
Wastewater	\$ 233,507.50	\$ 15,653.52	\$ 8,551.57		\$ 240,609.45
Solid Waste	\$ 14,502.42	\$ 8,959.62	\$ 9,322.54		\$ 14,139.50
Family Crisis	\$ 6,920.82	\$ -	\$ 300.00		\$ 6,620.82
Sales Tax	\$ 19,265.86	\$ 9,205.24	\$ 10,424.04		\$ 18,047.06
Employment	\$ 2,127.56	\$ -	\$ 4,923.74		\$ (2,796.18)
Utility Prepayments	\$ 52,342.61	\$ 5,410.66	\$ 75.83		\$ 57,677.44
Utility Deposits	\$ 72,299.58	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 600.00		\$ 73,949.58
Other	\$ 354.61	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 354.61
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 3,092,201.61</b>	<b>\$ 264,633.36</b>	<b>\$ 344,286.27</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,012,548.70</b>

<b>**Debt to be Paid</b>		
**2015 Refinance	\$ 2,533,062.50	by 12/1/2035
**West Sewer	\$ 101,220.91	by 10/15/2022
**RR Sewer Crossing	\$ 58,924.91	by 7/15/22
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>\$ 2,693,208.32</b>	

## The Life of Leonard Broman



Services for Leonard Broman, 97, of Groton will be at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, August 22, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Charlie Bunk will officiate. Burial in Groton Union Cemetery will follow a luncheon at the Church under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Leonard passed away August 18, 2019 at Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls.

Leonard and his twin brother, Glen, were born on the family farm near Andover, SD February 22, 1922. The doctor braved a blizzard by horse and buggy to attend to the twins' birth.

Leonard attended both country and Groton schools. He farmed near Groton, raised livestock, and owned Broman Truck Service. In October 1950, he married Gwendolyn O'Connor in Sioux Falls. They made their home in Groton where Gwen was a teacher for many years. He was a great lover of all animals, large or small, and carefully tended to them. He was a man of great faith. He was confirmed at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Groton where he remained a member. He was a member of the James Valley Threshers Association and a former member of

the John Deere Two Cylinder Club. He was proud of his Swedish heritage and proud to be the child of a Swedish immigrant.

His greatest joy was his grandsons, Andrew and Kevin.

Preceding him in death was his beloved wife Gwendolyn, his parents Leonard and Lillian, his twin brother Glen who passed away August 9, 2019, and his twin brothers Burton and Harold.

He was a kind and loving father to daughter Stacy and son-in-law Bob Sauvageau and a beloved Pop-Pop to Andrew and Kevin Sauvageau. Also grateful for having shared in his life are sister-in-law Eileen O'Connor; nephews David DeBelser and Bob O'Connor; nieces Brenda Broman Wilson, Kate Schnack, Kim Metzgar, Kay Bryant, Karol Eckel; several great nieces and nephews; and special friends Dennis Larson and J.J. Jenkins.

The family wishes to sincerely thank all those who provided special care for Leonard in his final week, especially Dennis Larson, Monte Sippel, Eileen O'Connor, Kim Metzgar, Dr. Fatima Kidwai at Avera Aberdeen and the wonderful doctors, medical students, and nurses at Avera McKennan, Sioux Falls, especially Dr. Dima Nimri, Dr. Teja Vasamsetty, and Dr. Jessica Pieroban.

In memory of Leonard, the family encourages those who are able to please consider the life-saving gift of blood or platelet donation.

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Today



Becoming  
Sunny

High: 76 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 52 °F

Thursday



Sunny

High: 78 °F

Thursday  
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 58 °F

Friday



Slight Chance  
T-storms

High: 75 °F

Few Morning Showers → Mostly Sunny Afternoon

Highs in the 70s

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

[weather.gov/abr](http://weather.gov/abr)

Graphic Created  
8/21/2019 5:16 AM

Published on: 08/21/2019 at 1:21AM

A few morning showers will give way to a mostly sunny sky this afternoon, with highs in the 70s and light winds. Our mainly dry weather will continue through the day Thursday!

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## Today in Weather History

August 21, 1989: Baseball size hail caused near 100 percent crop damage to Correll in Big Stone County to 10 miles north of Appleton. Most of Swift County also received 4 to 8 inches of rain.

August 21, 2007: Thunderstorms produced large hail in southeastern South Dakota, mainly near the Missouri River, during the late afternoon and early evening of August 21st. Enormous hail fell in the Dante area in Charles Mix County, including a state record size hailstone certified as 6 and 7/8 inches in diameter, with a circumference of 18 inches and a weight of one pound. The most massive stone was verified at 6 1/8 inches in diameter with a weight of 1.25 lbs. Damage included holes in roofs, broken rafters, broken awnings, numerous broken windows and dented vehicles, damaged siding, divots in the ground up to 12 inches long and 3 inches deep, and damaged crops. The state record hailstone was broken on July 23rd, 2010 with the United States record hailstone in Vivian.

1856: The Charter Oak was an unusually large white oak tree growing from around the 12th or 13th century until it fell during a windstorm on this day in 1856. According to tradition, Connecticut's Royal Charter of 1662 was hidden within the hollow of the tree to thwart its confiscation by the English governor-general. The oak became a symbol of American independence and is commemorated on the Connecticut State Quarter.

1883: An estimated F5 tornado caused extensive damage to Rochester Minnesota on this day. The enormous roar was said to have warned most Rochester residents, as the massive funnel cut through the north side of town. Over 135 homes were destroyed, and another 200 damaged. Many of the 200 plus injuries were severe, and other deaths probably occurred but not listed as part of the 37 total mentioned. This damaging tornado eventually led to the formation of the Mayo Clinic.

1888 - A tornado swarm occurred in Maryland and Delaware. Many waterspouts were seen over Chesapeake Bay. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1918 - A tornado struck Tyler, MN, killing 36 persons and destroying most of the business section of the town resulting in a million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1983 - The temperature at Fayetteville, NC, soared to 110 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Early morning thunderstorms produced severe weather in eastern Iowa and west central Illinois. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 82 mph at Moline IL, and tennis ball size hail at Independence IA. Rock Island IL was drenched with 3.70 inches of rain. Total damage for the seven county area of west central Illinois was estimated at twelve million dollars. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms spawned several tornadoes in Iowa, produced wind gusts to 63 mph in the Council Bluffs area, and drenched Sioux Center IA with up to 6.61 inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from Kansas to Minnesota and North Dakota. Thunderstorms in Minnesota produced baseball size hail from Correll to north of Appleton. Thunderstorms in north central Kansas produced wind gusts higher than 100 mph at Wilson Dam. Thunderstorms around Lincoln NE produced baseball size hail and up to five inches of rain, and Boone NE was deluged with five inches of rain in an hour and a half. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



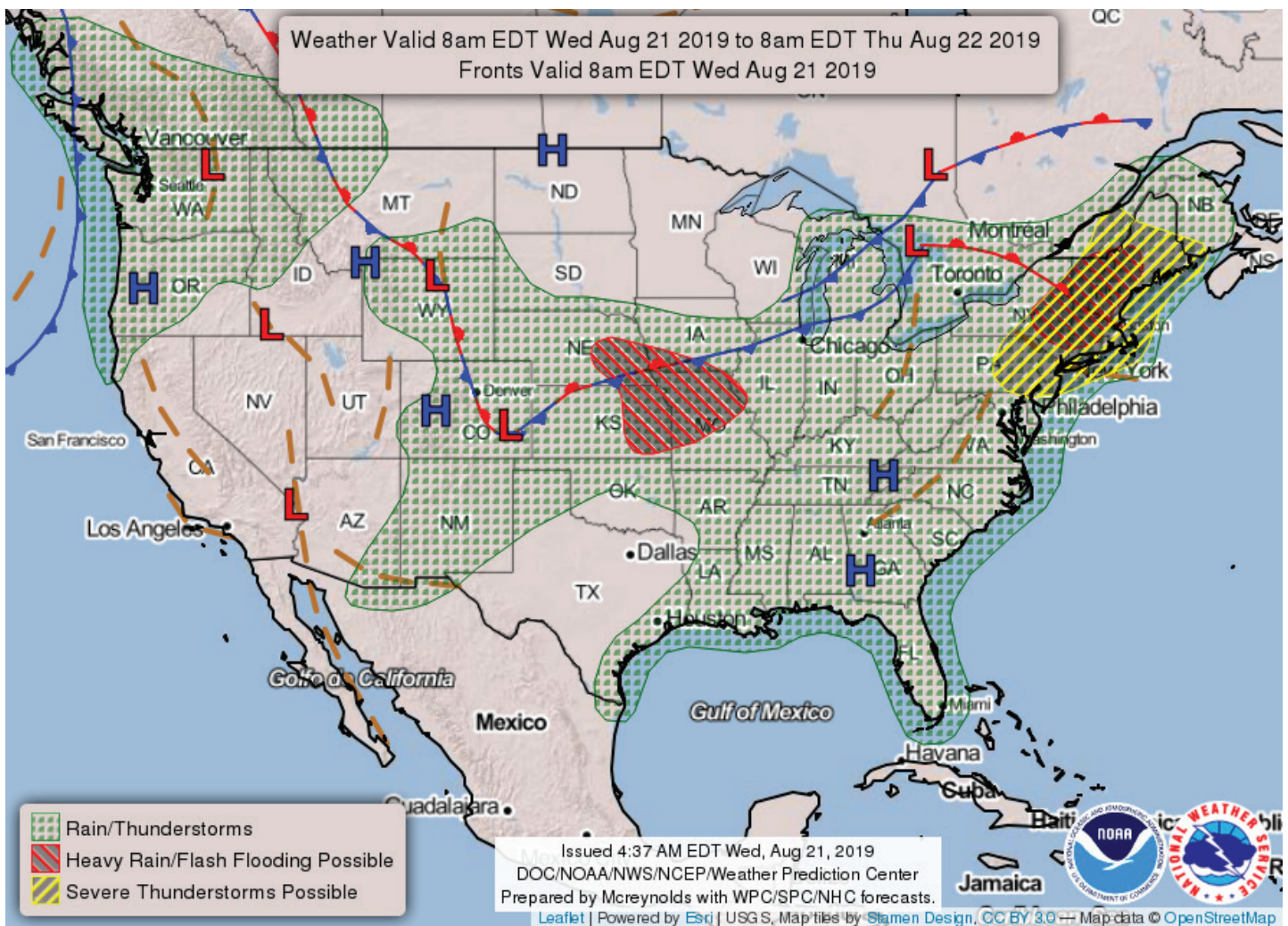
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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp:** 80 °F at 3:56 PM  
**Low Temp:** 62 °F at 11:59 PM  
**Wind:** 28 mph  
**Day Rain:** 0.00

**Record High:** 105° in 1947  
**Record Low:** 37° in 2004  
**Average High:** 81°F  
**Average Low:** 55°F  
**Average Precip in Aug.:** 1.56  
**Precip to date in Aug.:** 2.98  
**Average Precip to date:** 15.42  
**Precip Year to Date:** 19.57  
**Sunset Tonight:** 8:31 p.m.  
**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 6:43 a.m.



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## THE SEARCH CONTINUES

Consider this: there are twenty-one letters in the Hebrew alphabet. In Proverbs 31:10 there are twenty-two letters, forming an acrostic. It begins with a succeeding letter of the Hebrew alphabet in the final chapter of Proverbs. Obviously, believing that the Holy Spirit is the infallible author of each verse in the Bible, this did not happen by accident. Certainly, there is a significant message contained in these few verses. The use of the acrostic model was used by teachers and scholars of the laws and prophets to make the message easy to memorize.

First, the acrostic was used to provide a helpful way to organize information for future use. A wife of noble character, as pictured in these few verses, includes items that young women would want to include in their resumes as they matured. It is also the criteria for men to apply to women when seeking a wife. The traits that are presented in these verses are both goals to be achieved and traits to be sought in a wife.

Second, the term noble implies capabilities, character, and efficiency. It is the same term used when a wife is spoken of as the crown of her husband.

Third, who can find? The noble wife is rare and not easily found. However, it does not mean that the search is not worth the effort. Quite the contrary.

Ruth was described as a woman of noble character. Her story echoes throughout history. How fortunate we are that God gave an example for women to follow and men to search for in a wife.

Prayer: Lord, how blest we are that You provide us with detailed instructions on what matters most in life! May we align our minds and hearts with Your Word. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 31:10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

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## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 08/07/2019 Storybook Land Theatre Performace at Granary Rural Cultural Center
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/12/2019 St. John's Lutheran Luncheon
- 09/20/2019 Presbyterian Luncheon
- 09/28/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday at the Legion Post #39

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/26/2020 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)  
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest

## News from the Associated Press

### **Midwest Excavating fined more than \$50,000 for trench hazard**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Midwest Excavating for allegedly exposing workers to trench cave-in hazards at a jobsite in Sioux Falls.

The company was fined more than \$58,000 for one willful and one serious citation for failing to protect employees.

The U.S. Department of Labor says OSHA investigated the jobsite after workers complained about a trench that had inadequate protections. OSHA found a potential for the trench to collapse due to the presence of water, vertical walls and a depth greater than 7 feet.

OSHA area director Sheila Stanley says the agency requires trench protective systems in all trenches deeper than 5 feet.

The company has 15 business days to comply, request an informal conference with Stanley or contest the findings. A message left with Midwest Excavating was not immediately returned early Wednesday.

### **SD Lottery**

**By The Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Tuesday:

Mega Millions

08-14-25-51-63, Mega Ball: 4, Megaplier: 3

(eight, fourteen, twenty-five, fifty-one, sixty-three; Mega Ball: four; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$79 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

### **Minnesota hemp group protests driver arrest in South Dakota**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Minnesota Hemp Association is protesting the arrest of a hemp driver in South Dakota.

The group's executive director, former Minnesota legislator Joe Radinovich, accuses South Dakota of violating the 2018 Farm Bill by arresting the driver. The Argus Leader reports the driver was arrested in July while delivering 300 pounds of non-intoxicating hemp from Denver to a Minnesota processor.

Radinovich says the case highlights the need for consistent state laws on hemp cultivation, transportation, processing and selling.

The 2018 Farm Bill federally legalized industrial hemp, but South Dakota legislators failed to override Gov. Kristi Noem's veto of a bill legalizing hemp in the state this year.

The Department of Public Safety points out that hemp is still illegal in South Dakota and that includes transporting it across the state.

### **Rapid City man charged after threats to government entities**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man has been charged after he allegedly made threats to blow up various local and federal government entities.

Thirty-seven-year-old Daniel Nazarchuk was charged Tuesday with making terrorist threats and possession of a controlled substance — both felonies — as well as a misdemeanor count of intentional damage to property.

Bond for Nazarchuk was set at \$2,000, and he remains in jail.

Nazarchuk was arrested Monday after he sent messages containing threats to the Pennington County

Sheriff's Office.

Authorities say he also posted video of himself throwing rocks and breaking the windshield of a sheriff's office vehicle.

## South Dakota lawmakers push forward on allowing hemp

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers heard from officials in neighboring North Dakota and Montana about how the legalization of industrial hemp has affected their states, despite Republican Gov. Kristi Noem's opposition to allowing the crop.

During the meeting Monday in Pierre, the North Dakota and Montana officials said they didn't face roadblocks to legalizing the crop in their states, but Noem sent members of her administration to the meeting to oppose legalization in South Dakota.

The administration's common theme was that too many questions remain, KELO reported. Public Safety Secretary Craig Price said he thinks legalizing industrial hemp would invite new attempts to legalize marijuana.

Minority Whip Oren Lesmeister, who has been meeting with officials from states where industrial hemp is grown and processed, disagreed.

"We are seeing that these states have strict rules in place, but we also see that the fear industrial hemp is a backway to produce the drug, marijuana, is unwarranted," Lesmeister, a Parade rancher, said in a statement. "We have also learned farmers can make money from this."

The Legislature passed a bill to legalize industrial hemp last session, but Noem vetoed it. House Majority Leader Lee Qualm, a Republican who chairs the Industrial Hemp Summer Study, said the committee is working to come up with legislation that would make everyone comfortable.

Qualm said in a statement that the hardy crop can be grown in nearly every region of the state.

"Industrial hemp is the first new crop that has come along in decades," said Qualm.

Noem said she gave 315 questions to committee members prior to their first meeting last month.

"When it comes to industrial hemp, we still have more questions than we have answers," Noem said in a statement. "Other states are struggling to implement their industrial hemp laws. As leaders, we must have answers to how any new law will be implemented effectively and how it will impact our state."

Monday's session included testimony from North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, Montana hemp program coordinator Andy Gray and Montana Agriculture Department Director Ben Thomas. Industrial hemp production has been allowed in North Dakota for several years, while Montana is setting up its processor licensing system.

South Dakota Farmers Union President Doug Sombke said members of his organization are watching the process closely.

"Legalizing the growing of industrial hemp has been part of our policy since 2018, because our family farmers and ranchers need new opportunities. And industrial hemp is a new, potentially high-value opportunity," he said in a statement.

## Trump acknowledges China policies may mean US economic pain

By KEVIN FREKING and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump acknowledged his aggressive China trade policies may mean economic pain for Americans but insisted they're needed for more important long-term benefits. He contended he does not fear a recession but is nonetheless considering new tax cuts to promote growth.

Asked if his trade war with China could tip the country into recession, he brushed off the idea as "irrelevant" and said it was imperative to "take China on."

"It's about time, whether it's good for our country or bad for our country short term," Trump said on Tuesday.

Paraphrasing a reporter's question, Trump said, "Your statement about, 'Oh, will we fall into a recession for two months?' OK? The fact is somebody had to take China on."

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The Republican president indicated that he had no choice but to impose the tariffs that have been a drag on U.S. manufacturers, financial markets and, by some measures, American consumers.

China, though, said trade with the U.S. has been "mutually beneficial" and appealed to Washington to "get along with us." A foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, on Wednesday expressed hope Washington can "meet China halfway" in settling disagreements.

Trump was clear that he didn't think the U.S. is at risk of a recession and that a boom was possible if the Federal Reserve would slash its benchmark interest rate.

"We're very far from a recession," Trump said. "In fact, if the Fed would do its job, I think we'd have a tremendous spurt of growth, a tremendous spurt."

Yet he also said he is considering a temporary payroll tax cut and indexing to inflation the federal taxes on profits made on investments, moves designed to stimulate faster growth. He downplayed any idea that these thoughts indicate a weakening economy and said, "I'm looking at that all the time anyway."

Asked about his remarks, White House spokesman Judd Deere said, "The president does not believe we are headed for a recession. The economy is strong because of his policies."

Trump faces something of an inflection point on a U.S. economy that appears to be showing vulnerabilities after more than 10 years of growth. Factory output has fallen and consumer confidence has waned as he has ramped up his trade war with China. In private, Trump and his advisers have shown concern that a broader slowdown, if not an outright recession, could arrive just as he is seeking reelection based on his economic record.

Trump rattled the stock and bond markets this month when he announced plans to put a 10% tax on \$300 billion worth of Chinese imports. The market reaction suggested a recession might be on the horizon and led Trump to delay some of the tariffs that were slated to begin in September, though 25% tariffs are already in place for \$250 billion in other Chinese goods.

The president has long maintained that the burden of the tariffs is falling solely on China, yet that message was undermined by his statements to reporters Tuesday prior to a meeting in the Oval Office with the president of Romania.

"My life would be a lot easier if I didn't take China on," Trump said. "But I like doing it because I have to do it."

The world economy has been slowing in recent months, and recent stock market swings have added to concerns that the U.S. economy is not immune. A new survey Monday showed a big majority of economists expect a downturn to hit by 2021.

Addressing that possibility, Trump focused anew on pressuring the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates. Presidents have generally avoided criticizing the Federal Reserve publicly, but Trump has shown no inclination to follow that lead. Rather, he's positioning Fed Chairman Jerome Powell to take the fall if the



**President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Romanian President Klaus Iohannis in the Oval Office of the White House, Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2019, in Washington.**

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

economy swoons.

"I think that we actually are set for a tremendous surge of growth, if the Fed would do its job," Trump said. "That's a big if."

Trump recommended a minimum cut of a full percentage point in the coming months.

## Trump: Any Jew voting Democratic is uninformed or disloyal

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Showing a fresh willingness to play politics along religious lines, President Donald Trump said that American Jewish people who vote for Democrats show "either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty."

Trump's claim triggered a quick uproar from critics who said the Republican president was trading in anti-Semitic stereotypes. It came amid Trump's ongoing feud with Democratic congresswomen Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, both Muslim.

Trump has closely aligned himself with Israel, including its conservative prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, while the Muslim lawmakers have been outspoken critics of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians. Tlaib is a U.S.-born Palestinian American, while Omar was born in Somalia.

"Where has the Democratic Party gone? Where have they gone where they are defending these two people over the state of Israel?" Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "I think any Jewish people that vote for a Democrat, I think it shows either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty."

At Trump's urging, Israel last week blocked Omar and Tlaib from entering the country. Israel later agreed to a humanitarian visit for Tlaib to visit her grandmother, who lives in the West Bank. Tlaib declined, saying her grandmother had ultimately urged her not to come under what they considered to be humiliating circumstances.

Trump called Omar a "disaster" for Jews and said he didn't "buy" the tears that Tlaib shed Monday as she discussed the situation. Both congresswomen support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, a global protest of Israel.

Trump's comments were denounced swiftly by Jewish American organizations.

"This is yet another example of Donald Trump continuing to weaponize and politicize anti-Semitism," said Halie Soifer, executive director of the Jewish Democratic Council of America. "At a time when anti-Semitic incidents have increased — due to the president's emboldening of white nationalism — Trump is repeating an anti-Semitic trope."

Logan Bayroff of the liberal J Street pro-Israel group said it was "no surprise that the president's racist, disingenuous attacks on progressive women of color in Congress have now transitioned into smears



**President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Romanian President Klaus Iohannis in the Oval Office of the White House, Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2019, in Washington.**

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

against Jews.”

“It is dangerous and shameful for President Trump to attack the large majority of the American Jewish community as unintelligent and ‘disloyal,’” Bayroff said. A number of groups noted that accusations of disloyalty have long been made against Jews, including in Europe during the 1930s.

Ann Lewis and Mark Mellman of Democratic Majority for Israel called it “one of the most dangerous, deadly accusations Jews have faced over the years. False charges of disloyalty over the centuries have led to Jews being murdered, jailed and tortured.”

The Republican Jewish Coalition defended Trump, arguing that the president was speaking about people being disloyal to themselves rather than to Israel.

“President Trump is right, it shows a great deal of disloyalty to oneself to defend a party that protects/emboldens people that hate you for your religion,” the group said in a tweet. “The @GOP, when rarely confronted w/anti-Semitism of elected members always acts swiftly and decisively to punish and remove.”

American Jews don’t necessarily support everything that Israel does, nor are most single-issue voters.

Recent polling shows that a majority of Jews identify as Democrats.

According to AP VoteCast, a survey of the 2018 electorate, 72% of Jewish voters supported Democratic House candidates in 2018. Similarly, 74% said they disapprove of how Trump is handling his job.

A Pew Research Center poll conducted in April found that among Jewish Americans, 42% said Trump is favoring the Israelis too much, 6% said he’s favoring the Palestinians too much and 47% said he’s striking the right balance. Jews were more likely than Christians to say Trump favors the Israelis too much, 42% to 26%.

Omar was roundly criticized by members of both parties for saying during a town hall earlier this year that she wanted to discuss “the political influence in this country that says it is OK for people to push for allegiance to a foreign country.”

This is not the first time Trump has been criticized for remarks seen by some as anti-Semitic. In 2015, Trump, then a candidate, spoke to the Republican Jewish Coalition and made a similar comment.

“You’re not going to support me because I don’t want your money,” he said then. “You want to control your politicians, that’s fine.”

Later in the campaign, he tweeted a graphic critical of his opponent Hillary Clinton that featured a six-pointed star, a pile of cash and the words “most corrupt candidate ever.” The star was believed by many to be the Star of David, which is featured on the Israeli flag. The campaign denied that the star carried any special meaning.

The president first attacked Omar and Tlaib, and two other Democratic congresswomen of color, last month by telling them to “go back” to their home countries. All four are United States citizens.

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Lemire reported from New York.

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AP Polling Editor Emily Swanson contributed to this report.

## Outside money flows into race for Susan Collins’ Senate seat

By DAVID SHARP and BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Democrats vowed last year to make Republican Sen. Susan Collins pay for her vote confirming Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Republicans declared they would have her back. Neither has forgotten its promises.

Money is pouring into Maine’s high-profile Senate race, threatening to upend the state’s reputation for genteel politics and giving way to a new era of partisanship.

Observers predict the race will set a spending record in the state, with tens of millions of dollars going into the state, even though Collins has yet to officially announce that she’s seeking reelection.

Advertising data shows Democrats plan to spend at least \$1.2 million on ads through December, including a spot that aired for the first time this month that accuses Collins of failing to protect Medicare. A newly



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formed GOP group, meanwhile, has \$800,000 already in the bank, thanks to a small group of wealthy financiers. They've highlighted Collins' bipartisan credentials while calling her a "strong voice to the concerns of women across Maine and the nation."

The spending underscores how loud, polarized politics are changing campaigns far from battleground states and threatening the political culture that allowed centrists like Collins to thrive.

But it's unclear how Maine voters will respond to refighting her contentious vote for Kavanaugh or to the flood of outside money.

The race represents one of a handful of opportunities for Democrats to pick up seats in the Senate in the pursuit of seizing control of the chamber from the GOP.

Collins, who was first elected in 1996, has practiced a measured, moderate brand of politics that aligned with the ethos of a state where most voters don't identify with either party. But the political climate in the state has recently developed more bite, as evidenced by former GOP Gov. Paul LePage's bare-knuckle style. New England Republicans, meanwhile, have become an endangered species in Congress, with Collins the last one.

The Kavanaugh controversy presented an opening for Democrats. The senator lost standing with many women when she voted for Kavanaugh after questions swirled about whether he would uphold Roe v. Wade and after Christine Blasey Ford came forward to say he had sexually assaulted her decades ago, when both were teens. Kavanaugh vigorously denied assaulting her.

Critics sent coat hangers to Collins' office, and an envelope containing white powder was sent to her home in Maine, both signs of how ugly the situation had become.

Roger Katz, a moderate Republican, attorney and former state senator in Augusta, acknowledged that vote hurt Collins. But he brushed off pundits' suggestions that she's become vulnerable. "Most people will look at her body of work over 24 years, not just a single issue," he said.

Collins has at least two Democratic challengers: House Speaker Sara Gideon and 2018 gubernatorial candidate Betsy Sweet .

Gideon, who quickly received the backing of the national Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, touted her homegrown fundraising success. But both parties are expected to draw from outside Maine, the poorest state in New England.

The most expensive race in the state's history was last year's 2nd District congressional race, in which total spending topped \$20 million. In the Senate race alone, spending could reach \$60 million, said David Farmer, a Democratic operative in the state.

The last time Collins was on the ballot, in 2014, she spent a comparatively paltry \$5.2 million and coasted to reelection with over 68% of the vote.

Democratic activists incensed by the Kavanaugh vote already raised \$4 million for whoever becomes the Democratic nominee, an online effort that brought in money from across the U.S.



**In this July 10, 2019, file photo, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, walks past reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, as she heads to a briefing on election security. National money is already flowing into Maine's 2020 Senate race, offering the latest indicator that incumbent Collins faces a stiff reelection fight.** (AP Photo/Susan Walsh, File)

A new super PAC supporting Collins, meanwhile, showed how quickly money can be raised. In a snap, 1820 PAC, a reference to the year Maine gained statehood, raised nearly \$800,000 from a small group of wealthy Republican donors. That includes \$500,000 contributed by Stephen Schwarzman, the CEO of the Wall Street investment firm Blackstone and a Republican megadonor who has contributed millions to GOP causes, Federal Election Commission records show.

Maine Momentum, the group running the new anti-Collins ad, plans to spend at least \$716,000 on ads geared toward the Senate race from now until the end of December, records show. Maine Momentum is a nonprofit "dark money" group that can raise unlimited sums and does not have to reveal its donors. And because it was recently founded, it won't have to report how much it raised until next year.

Maine Momentum spokesman Chris Glynn, Gideon's former communications director, said the group is focused on Collins' record on "health care, taxes and the money she has been taking from special interests in Washington."

But Collins' campaign said it's ironic that Democrats are embracing such tactics, noting how they have often lamented the loosened campaign finance rules that have led to a proliferation of dark money spending.

"This has more to do with (Democratic Senate leader) Chuck Schumer's political ambitions and absolutely nothing to do with doing what's right for the people of Maine and our country," said Kevin Kelley, her campaign spokeswoman.

Slodysko reported from Washington.

## Australian court upholds sex abuse verdict of Cardinal Pell

By ROD McGUIRK

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — An Australian appeals court Wednesday upheld convictions against Cardinal George Pell, the most senior Catholic to be found guilty of sexually abusing children, in a decision cheered by scores of abuse survivors and victims' advocates demonstrating outside the court.

A unanimous jury in December found Pope Francis' former finance minister guilty of molesting two 13-year-old choirboys in Melbourne's St. Patrick's Cathedral more than two decades ago. The Victoria state Court of Appeal rejected his appeal in a 2-1 ruling, with the court's chief justice saying the majority found Pell's accuser to be a compelling "witness of truth."

Pell's lawyers will examine the judgment and consider an appeal to the High Court, Australia's final arbiter, his spokeswoman Katrina Lee said. "Cardinal Pell is obviously disappointed with the decision," her statement said.



**In this Feb. 26, 2019, file photo, Cardinal George Pell arrives at the County Court in Melbourne, Australia. Pell's appeal against his convictions for child molestation was largely a question of who should the jury have believed, his accuser or a senior priest whose church role was likened to Pell's bodyguard. Pell's accuser was a 13-year-old choirboy when he alleged he was abused by then Melbourne Archbishop Pell at St. Patrick's Cathedral in December 1996 and February 1997. The appeal court will give their verdict on Aug. 21.** (AP Photo/Andy Brownbill, File)

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The Vatican noted Pell had always maintained his innocence and had a right to appeal. It said its own investigation into Pell would await the outcome of any final appeal in Australia.

"... the Holy See confirms its closeness to the victims of sexual abuse and its commitment to pursue, through the competent ecclesiastical authorities, those members of the clergy who commit such abuse," a Vatican statement said, adding it respected the Australian judicial system.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference said all Australians must be equal under the law and it accepted the verdict.

"I respectfully receive the court's decision and I encourage everyone to do the same," Melbourne Archbishop Peter Comensoli said in a statement.

Pell was sentenced to six years in prison in March and is no longer a member of Pope Francis' Council of Cardinals or a Vatican official. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said soon after the appeal was rejected that Pell would be stripped of his Order of Australia honor.

Pell, 78, showed no emotion when Chief Justice Anne Ferguson read the verdict to a packed courtroom but bowed his head moments later. He wore a cleric's collar but not his cardinal's ring. Pell had arrived at the court in a prison van and was handcuffed as he was led away by a guard.

Clerical sexual abuse and the Catholic Church's handling of such cases worldwide have thrown Francis' papacy into turmoil.

In a little more than a year, the pope has acknowledged he made "grave errors" in Chile's worst cover-up, Pell was convicted of abuse, a French cardinal was convicted of failing to report a pedophile, and a third cardinal, former U.S. church leader Theodore McCarrick, was defrocked after a Vatican investigation determined he molested children and adults.

Ferguson said she and President of the Court of Appeal Chris Maxwell "decided that it was open to the jury to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that Cardinal Pell was guilty."

The two judges "accepted the prosecution's submission that the complainant was a very compelling witness, clearly not a liar, was not a fantasist and was a witness of truth," Ferguson said.

The dissenting judge, Mark Weinberg, "could not exclude as a reasonable possibility that some of what the complainant said was concocted," particularly in relation to the charge that Pell had squeezed the boy's genitals and shoved him against a cathedral corridor wall as they passed in the midst of the choir moments after a Mass, she said.

"Justice Weinberg found that the complainant's account of the second incident was entirely implausible and quite unconvincing," Ferguson said. The full, 325-page ruling was published after she summarized the court's findings.

One of the choirboys, identified by the sentencing judge as J.J., was the key prosecution witness. His friend, identified as M.R., died of a heroin overdose in 2014 at the age of 31 without ever complaining he had been abused. Neither victim can be named.

J.J. said he felt a responsibility to come forward after attending his friend's funeral. "The criminal process has been stressful. The journey has taken me to places that, in my darkest moments, I feared I could not return from," he said in a statement released by his lawyer.

"I am grateful for a legal system that everyone can believe in, where everybody is equal before the law and no one is above the law," he added.

The victim said he was relieved by the verdict and, "I just hope that it's all over now."

The father of the deceased victim shed tears of relief in the courtroom when Pell's appeal was denied, his lawyer said.

Lawyer Lisa Flynn said the father had an "extremely tough wait" for the judgment against Pell and the court made the correct decision. "The disgraced cardinal is in the right place behind bars."

An earlier trial had ended with a deadlocked jury, with at least two jurors holding out for conviction or acquittal. While Pell's lawyers argued in the appeal that the jury must have had reasonable doubt, the prosecutors said contrasting evidence from more than 20 priests, choristers, altar servers and church officials still did not preclude guilty verdicts.

The abuse occurred months after Pell became archbishop of Australia's second-largest city and had set

the world's first compensation arrangement for victims of clergy sexual abuse.

The victim who testified said the incident in the corridor occurred in early 1997. The jury also concluded that Pell in late 1996 had orally raped the same choirboy and indecently dealt with the boy and his friend in a rear room of the cathedral after catching them swigging altar wine.

Pell did not testify at either of his trials. But both juries saw a video of a police interview of him in Rome in 2016 in which Pell rejected the allegations as "absolutely disgraceful rubbish" and a "deranged falsehood."

A non-profit group that seeks accountability for sex abuse in the Catholic church said the ruling was a watershed that should give all victims hope. "Catholics everywhere owe thanks to the incredibly brave victim who brought Pell to justice," the U.S.-based group said in a statement.

It also expressed hope Australia would continue to investigate Pell. "An abusive bishop is, inevitably, an enabler of other sexual criminals. His sphere of negative influence extends beyond his own victims, hurting the children (who) are raped or assaulted by the abusive clerics to whom he gives safe harbor."

Pell must serve a minimum of three years and eight months of his six-year sentence before he will be eligible for parole. He has been held in a Melbourne prison in protective custody as a convicted pedophile.

Prison authorities have been investigating whether Pell breached rules by writing a letter dated Aug. 1 that was circulated by his supporters on social media. Prison rules forbid prisoners from posting on social media, using the internet, or asking others to post on their behalf.

The two-page, handwritten letter thanked supporters for letters Pell has received and said his faith was his "source of strength."

He could face further legal consequences from an Australian government-commissioned inquiry into how the church and other institutions responded to child sex abuse over decades.

Pell testified to the inquiry by video link from Rome in 2016. The redacted report issued in 2017 made no mention of Pell to avoid publishing information that could "prejudice current or future criminal or civil proceedings."

## China ties shape cautious reaction to Hong Kong protests

By LORI HINNANT Associated Press

For Canada and the European Union, they are a "situation." For President Donald Trump, a potential stumbling block in ongoing trade disputes. And for South Korea, an issue to be monitored.

With the notable exception of Taiwan, cautious comments from the few governments willing to speak out on the ongoing protests in Hong Kong fall far short of support for the demonstrators. They are so mild that even the word "protest" itself was left out of the joint EU-Canada statement that was the most recent to infuriate the Chinese government. And the vast majority of countries are unwilling to risk that fury at all.

China's weapon is also its greatest lure: a population of nearly 1.4 billion. Otherwise known as the world's largest market, to be opened or closed at will. China has also become a major builder of roads, ports, power plants and other infrastructure in developing countries.

"It's really an anodyne statement," Theresa Fallon, a researcher on EU-Asia relations, said of the one released by the EU and Canada. "Of course the Chinese knew that these statements would be made, but they cracked down right away. They have zero tolerance for that. ... Everyone is afraid to be punished by China."

UNITED STATES, CANADA and EUROPE

In the early days of the protests, Trump described them as an internal matter. Then he suggested that Chinese President Xi Jinping could resolve the situation by meeting with protest leaders.

On Sunday, he went a step further and said the use of Chinese troops to quell the demonstrations would worsen the current U.S.-China trade dispute, referring to the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown.

"I mean if it's another Tiananmen Square, I think it's a very hard thing to do if there is violence," Trump told reporters in New Jersey.

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He and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke about the protests last week, according to Trudeau's office. The Canadian leader has been among the most outspoken on the protest movement. He said the 300,000 Canadians in Hong Kong represent the region's largest contingent of foreigners.

"We are going to continue to call upon the Chinese government to respect the 'one country, two systems' agreement that they have long abided by," he said earlier this week.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang avoided commenting on Trump's remarks directly, but referred to the president's previous statements on the protests.

"We have noticed that President Trump has previously stated that Hong Kong is part of China, and that they must solve it themselves and do not need advice. We hope that the U.S. side can match its acts to its words," Geng told reporters.

The European Union joined with Canada in a statement Saturday.

"It is crucial that restraint be exercised, violence rejected and urgent steps taken to de-escalate the situation. Engagement in a process of broad-based and inclusive dialogue, involving all key stakeholders, is essential."

## KOREAS: NORTH vs. SOUTH

South Korea has avoided criticizing China, its largest trading partner and a country believed to have significant leverage over rival North Korea.

"Our government is monitoring the latest moves in Hong Kong with interest and we hope this issue will be settled smoothly," the Foreign Ministry said in response to a question from The Associated Press.

South Korea is currently preoccupied with stalled negotiations on how to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons and trade disputes with Japan, and that could make Seoul even more reticent.

Choi Kang, vice president of Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies, said even if there's a Chinese crackdown in Hong Kong, South Korea would likely end up expressing little more than "regrets" or "hopes for an early, peaceful resolution."

As for North Korea, the country's propaganda outlets have accused the United States and other Western countries of using the Hong Kong case as a chance to slander China and interfere in its domestic affairs.

"To take measure for internal affairs belongs to the sovereignty of relevant country," the North's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary last week. "But the Western forces are obtrusively interfering in China's internal affair to add fuel to the reckless moves of the dishonest elements, saying this or that."



**In this Aug. 17, 2019, file photo, pro-China counter-protesters hold Chinese flags during an anti-extradition rally for Hong Kong in Vancouver. Governments around the world are taking a cautious approach to responding to the protests roiling Hong Kong. With the notable exception of Taiwan, cautious comments from a handful of governments fall short of support for the demonstrators. They are so mild that even the word "protest" itself was left out of the joint EU-Canada statement that was the most recent to infuriate the Chinese government. Most are unwilling to risk that fury at all, showing China's deep influence around the world.** (Darryl Dyck/The Canadian Press via AP, File)

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It didn't directly refer to the United States but an earlier Rodong Sinmun commentary said that "the Western countries including the U.S. are using (the Hong Kong issue) as a golden opportunity to defame China while raising the level of threat and blackmail against China."

North Korea has long bristled at any outside criticism of its own human rights conditions as a U.S.-led attempt to bring down its political system.

A Foreign Ministry statement on Aug. 11 said that "we fully support the stand and measures of the Chinese party and government for defending the sovereignty, security and reunification of the country and safeguarding the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong."

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

Southeast Asian countries generally have little need or desire to take a public stand on the Hong Kong protests.

Many try to strike a balance between Beijing and Washington, moving toward the Chinese end of the scale in recent years as China has projected its influence more vigorously. The poorer members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations — Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar — have become reliant on Beijing's economic largesse, and virtually all have embraced China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative to help expand their infrastructure, though often with reservations and in the case of the more developed nations, with some hard bargaining.

At the same time, several nations have publicly complained of China's efforts at expanding its influence, especially its ambitious territorial claims over the South China Sea at the expense of Beijing's smaller neighbors.

## AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND

The leaders of both Australia and New Zealand have been measured in their comments.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison disagreed last week that the protests were beginning to show the "sprouts of terrorism," as a Chinese official said, but he didn't criticize the statement directly.

"My view is one to seek to de-escalate things, to encourage the chief executive of Hong Kong to be listening carefully to what people are saying in Hong Kong and work toward a peaceful and calm resolution of what is a very serious issue," he said.

Australia warned China against interfering in related demonstrations in Australia after a Chinese diplomat praised Chinese students who clashed with supporters of the protests in Brisbane.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern denied she was constrained in what she could say about China, and said her country's stand on the protest movement has been consistent. China is a key export market for New Zealand and has overtaken Australia as New Zealand's largest trading partner. The agricultural-driven economy of New Zealand relies on selling billions of dollars' worth of milk powder to China, which is used in infant formula.

"De-escalation, peaceful dialogue on all sides, and, of course, a restoration of the 'One China but two systems' philosophy that has been in place for a significant period."

## BRITAIN

Britain handed Hong Kong over to Chinese rule in 1997, but 156 years as a colony left a mark.

Its last governor, Chris Patten, called for the government to be "outspoken" in defending the city's freedom.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who has previously described Britain as open for business from China and is now embroiled in Brexit, has been uncharacteristically silent on the protests. But his foreign secretary, Dominic Raab, "condemned violent acts by all sides but emphasized the right to peaceful protest, noting that hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong people had chosen this route to express their views."

China said Wednesday a staffer at the British Consulate in Hong Kong, who was earlier reported missing while on a trip to the mainland, has been given 15 days of administrative detention in the city of Shenzhen for violating a law on public order. The British Foreign Office has said it is "extremely concerned" about

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his situation.

## TAIWAN

In Taiwan, support for the protests has been widespread, including among young Hong Kongers studying in the self-ruling democracy that China claims as its own territory.

On Saturday, a student group called "Hong Kong Outlanders" organized flash mobs, street film screenings and sit-ins in more than half a dozen cities, including in front of Taipei's famous Taipei 101 skyscraper that is a frequent destination for Chinese visitors. Support groups have also collected hardhats and set up public outdoor galleries of protest art known as Lennon Walls.

"We understand that the leaders cannot speak up for Hong Kong because of the financial situation. It's politics and money," said Dora, a Hong Kong native living in Taiwan, who only gave her first name for fear of reprisal. "But we're still reaching out for support and help from people of different countries to do whatever they can to help us."

Public opinion surveys show generally strong but not overwhelming public support for the government's backing of the protests, perhaps reflecting a general unwillingness for Taiwan to be identified with Hong Kong's situation.

Though Taiwan was a Japanese colony for 50 years until 1945, Taiwanese are swift to point out that they have been a de-facto independent state since Chiang Kai-shek relocated his Nationalist government there in 1949, rather than a British colony or a special administrative region governed by Beijing.

Perhaps more than anything, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen says and many believe the protests show China's "one country, two systems" framework that Beijing also proposes imposing on Taiwan simply cannot work.

Tsai has expressed her personal support for the protests and said the island would consider taking in Hong Kong residents seeking asylum, something that drew an angry rebuke from Beijing on Monday. Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman for the Chinese Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office, said Taiwan's offer would "cover up the crimes of a small group of violent militants" and encourage their "audacity in harming Hong Kong and turn Taiwan into a "heaven for ducking the law."

Ma demanded that Taiwan's government "cease undermining the rule of law" in Hong Kong, cease interfering in its affairs and not "condone criminals."

Associated Press writers Jim Gomez and Kiko Rosario in Manila, Philippines, Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Rod McGuirk in Canberra, Australia, Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, South Korea, Christopher Bodeen in Beijing, Nick Perry in Wellington, New Zealand, and Danica Kirka in London contributed to this report.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

### 1. HOW TRUMP VIEWS MARKET VOLATILITY, ECONOMY

The U.S. president contends he does not fear a recession and is nonetheless considering new tax cuts to promote growth, but he acknowledges his aggressive China trade policies may mean economic pain for Americans.

### 2. WHAT CAUGHT DANES OFF-GUARD

Trump's decision to cancel a visit to Denmark next month after the prime minister described his plan to buy Greenland as "absurd."

### 3. AUSTRALIAN COURT UPHOLDS CARDINAL'S SEX ABUSE VERDICT

The decision against George Pell, the most senior Catholic to be found guilty of sexually abusing children, brings cheers from demonstrators outside the court.

### 4. PRESIDENT INJECTS RELIGION INTO POLITICS AGAIN

Trump says that Jewish Americans who vote for Democrats show "either a total lack of knowledge

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or great disloyalty." His remarks are condemned as trading in anti-Semitic tropes.

## 5. WELCOME MAT REMOVED IN TURKEY

Syrians say Turkey has been detaining and forcing some refugees to return back to their war-torn country the past month.

## 6. VENEZUELA CRISIS PUSHES WOMEN INTO 'FORCED MOTHERHOOD'

The socialist government is now coping with a tide of unwanted pregnancies as contraceptives remain hard to come by.

## 7. WHERE NATIONAL MONEY IS FLOWING

Into Maine's 2020 Senate race, as Republicans look to maintain their grip on the chamber and Democrats try to make inroads.

## 8. ITALY REELING POLITICALLY AGAIN

As the sixth government in a decade falls, Italy's political parties face complicated coalition talks to avoid a new election.

## 9. MIGRANT STANDOFF OFF IN ITALY ENDS

More than 80 people were being evacuated from a migrant rescue ship in Italy, capping a weeklong drama that saw conditions deteriorate sharply onboard.

## 10. WHO IS RELYING ON FRESHMEN SIGNAL-CALLERS

At least three Power Five programs plan to open the season with a true freshman starting quarterback: Arizona State, Auburn and North Carolina.



**In this Monday, July. 31, 2017 file photo the sun sets over Nuuk, Greenland. A spokeswoman for Denmark's royal palace says U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to postpone a visit to Denmark next month was "a surprise." Trump announced his decision by tweet after the Danish prime minister dismissed the notion of selling Greenland to the U.S. as "an absurd discussion."** (AP Photo/David Goldman, File)

## Danish royal palace 'surprised' by Trump canceling trip

By JAN M. OLSEN Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to cancel a visit to Denmark next month after the prime minister described his plan to buy Greenland as "absurd" took the Danish royal palace by surprise, a spokeswoman said Wednesday.

Lene Balleby told The Associated Press Wednesday that the news was "a surprise" to the royal household, which formally had invited Trump to visit Denmark Sep. 2 and 3 as part of a European trip. She had no further comments.

Trump announced his decision by tweet after the Danish prime minister dismissed the notion of selling the semi-autonomous territory to the U.S. as "an absurd discussion."

"Denmark is a very special country with incredible people, but based on Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen's comments, that she would have no interest in discussing the purchase of Greenland, I will be postponing our meeting scheduled in two weeks for another time," Trump said.

There was no immediate reaction from the Danish government. Former government ministers were quick to speak out, however.



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Martin Lidegaard, a former foreign minister, told broadcaster TV2 that it was "a diplomatic farce" and said Trump's behavior was "grotesque" and he was "throwing a hissy fit."

Trump's cancellation was "deeply insulting to the people of Greenland and Denmark," former Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt wrote on Twitter.

Claus Oxfeldt, chairman of Denmark's main police union, told Danish media that authorities had been busy planning the third visit by a sitting U.S. president to the Scandinavian NATO member. "As far as I know, it has created great frustrations to have spent so much time preparing for a visit that is canceled," Oxfeldt was quoted as saying.

Ordinary Danes shook their head at the news with many calling Trump an "immature" person "living on another planet."

"He thinks he can just buy Greenland, he acts like an elephant in a china shop," said Pernille Iversen, a 41-year-old shopkeeper in Copenhagen.

"This is an insult to (Queen) Margrethe, to Denmark," said Steen Gade, a 55-year-old road worker.

Denmark's U.S. Ambassador to Denmark Carla Sands was apparently not informed of Trump's decision.

Shortly before he canceled the trip on Twitter, she herself sent a tweet saying "Denmark is ready for POTUS," using an acronym for "President of the United States" along with Trump's Twitter handle, with a photo from Copenhagen's City Hall square where a Dane had paid for two pro-Trump ads on giant electronic screens.

Trump had said Sunday that he was interested in buying Greenland for strategic purposes, but said a purchase was not a priority at this time. Both Frederiksen and Greenland Premier Kim Kielsen responded that Greenland is not for sale.

"The Prime Minister was able to save a great deal of expense and effort for both the United States and Denmark by being so direct," Trump said. "I thank her for that and look forward to rescheduling sometime in the future!"

White House spokesman Judd Deere later confirmed that the visit to Denmark has been canceled. Trump's visit to Poland is expected to be maintained.

Greenland sits between the Atlantic and Arctic oceans. A 1.7-million-square-kilometer (660,000-square-mile) ice sheet covers 80 percent of the island.

Retreating ice could uncover potential oil and mineral resources in Greenland which, if successfully tapped, could dramatically change the island's fortunes. However, no oil has yet been found in Greenlandic waters and the thickness of the ice means exploration is only possible in coastal regions.

Even there, conditions are far from ideal, due to the long winter with frozen ports, 24-hour darkness and temperatures regularly dropping below minus 30 Celsius (minus 20 Fahrenheit) in the northern parts.

It wouldn't be the first time an American leader has tried to buy the world's largest island. In 1946, the U.S. proposed to pay Denmark \$100 million to buy Greenland after flirting with the idea of swapping land



**In this Aug. 15, 2019, photo, a boat navigates at night next to icebergs in eastern Greenland. U.S. President Trump announced his decision to postpone a visit to Denmark by tweet on Tuesday Aug. 20, 2019, after Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen dismissed the notion of selling Greenland to the U.S. as "an absurd discussion."** (AP

Photo/Felipe Dana)

in Alaska for strategic parts of the Arctic island.

Under a 1951 deal, Denmark allowed the U.S. to build bases and radar stations on Greenland.

The U.S. Air Force currently maintains one base in northern Greenland, Thule Air Force Base, 1,200 kilometers (745 miles) south of the North Pole. Former military airfields in Narsarsuaq, Kulusuk and Kangerlussuaq have become civilian airports.

The Thule base, constructed in 1952, was originally designed as a refueling base for long-range bombing missions. It has been a ballistic missile early warning and space surveillance site since 1961.

Darlene Superville in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

## As warm welcome chills, Turkey clamps down on Syrians

By ZEINA KARAM Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Mustafa, a 21-year-old Syrian in Turkey, was at the shoe factory in Istanbul where he worked making army boots when three policemen stormed in, asking if everyone had their papers. He and three other Syrian refugees did not.

Within a day, Mustafa and a busload of other refugees would be driven to Turkey's southern border and forced to go back to their war-torn country.

"They told us things like, 'Don't come back to Turkey' and 'Go liberate your country'. Things like that," Mustafa recalled, speaking by phone to The Associated Press from his hometown of Salqin in the opposition-held Syrian province of Idlib. He asked that his full name not be published, fearing for his safety.

Mustafa is among hundreds of Syrian refugees who have been detained and reportedly forcibly deported to Syria in the past month, according to accounts by refugees to the AP. The expulsions reflect rising anti-refugee sentiment in a country that once flung open its borders to millions of Syrians fleeing civil war.

For weeks, Turkey has been carrying out a campaign to re-inforce its rules requiring Syrian refugees to stay in cities where they are registered with the government. Accounts by Mustafa and other Syrians suggest that along with that campaign, some unregistered refugees are being forced out of the country. The AP interviewed six Syrians who said they were among large groups deported to Syria in the past month.

The Turkish government categorically denies claims of forced deportations for registered and unregistered Syrians, saying only voluntary returns are allowed. Turkey is bound by an international law that protects against return to a country where a person faces persecution.

"I am officially denying such claims, it is not possible," said Ramazan Secilmis, an official with the Directorate General of Migration Management. He said 337,000 Syrians have voluntarily returned over the course of the war to Turkish-controlled zones in northern Syria.



**In this photo taken on Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2019, a man walks near Fatih mosque in Istanbul. Syrians say Turkey has been detaining and forcing some Syrian refugees to return back to their country the past month. The expulsions reflect increasing anti-refugee sentiment in Turkey, which opened its doors to millions of Syrians fleeing their country's civil war.** (AP Photo/Lefteris Pitarakis)

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But in a report late last month, Human Rights Watch accused authorities of detaining and coercing Syrians into signing "voluntary return forms" before returning them to danger. It called on authorities to protect the basic rights of all Syrians regardless of registration status.

There are no statistics on those forcibly returned. The Bab al-Hawa crossing — one of several crossings run by Syrian opposition authorities — saw 6,160 deportees from Turkey in July, a 40 percent jump from the month before, according to an infographic on the crossing's official Twitter page. It did not elaborate on the circumstances of the deportations.

Asked by the AP if it was aware of any forced deportations, the U.N. refugee agency's Turkey spokesperson Selin Unal said in an emailed statement that it was "following up on a number of reported cases" related to unregistered Syrians. Unal said it "could not confirm that large numbers" of registered refugees had been returned to Syria.

"UNHCR's priority is that persons in need of international protection continue to benefit from this protection," the statement said.

Turkey opened its borders to Syrians in April 2011 and is currently home to 3.6 million who fled the civil war, now in its ninth year.

But as Turkey suffers an economic downturn and rising unemployment, calls among Turks for Syrians to go home are growing. Analysts say rising resentment against Syrians was one reason President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling party lost the race for mayor of Istanbul in June.

An opinion survey conducted by the PIAR research center last month showed that 82.3% of the respondents agreed with the statement: "All Syrians must be sent back, I don't like the government's policy." The research was conducted with 2,460 people in 26 provinces.

Under Turkey's system, Syrians register with the government and obtain "temporary protection" status, receiving an ID card known in Turkish as a "kimlik." The ID card allows refugees to obtain permission to work. But they are required to remain in the specific province where they obtain their registration.

Istanbul, Turkey's most populous city — which hosts the largest number of registered Syrians, nearly 548,000 — stopped accepting new registrations last year, with authorities insisting it cannot absorb any more. But many Syrians from elsewhere have flocked to the city over the years for work.

In July, Istanbul's governor gave all Syrians not registered in Istanbul a deadline to leave the city or be forcibly removed. The deadline was initially supposed to run out on Tuesday, but Interior Minister Suleyman Soyly told Haberturk television late on Tuesday that it had been extended for two months, until Oct. 30.

However, even for weeks before the initial deadline, police have been doing frequent checks on Syrian IDs.

Mustafa, who had come to Turkey in 2017 and was not yet registered, was caught in one of those checks.

He said he had been trying in vain to obtain a "kimlik" in Istanbul. Finally, a week before his arrest, he found a lawyer who could arrange one in the nearby city of Bursa. Mustafa did the application, and the lawyer told him to come on Monday, July 22 to Bursa to obtain the ID card.

But the police raid came the preceding Friday. Mustafa and the two other unregistered Syrians in the workshop were piled into a bus that quickly filled with other Syrians. At a nearby police station, they were ordered to sign papers in Turkish, which they could not read.

Mustafa said they were then taken to a larger police station, where they were handcuffed and put on a bus with other Syrians. They were driven for 24 hours to the border province of Hatay, where they were dropped off at an informal crossing into Syria.

Now back in Idlib, Mustafa is searching for a way to support his mother and sisters. "It is very difficult and I take care of a whole family," he said. "There is war here. Nothing else."

Abdullah Abdulkader, a Syrian who was working at a laundry in the southern city of Gaziantep, was with two Syrian friends heading to get dinner when police asked for their IDs.

The 27-year-old said he had registered four months ago but had still not received the "kimlik." When he told the officer he did not have it, he was slapped, handcuffed and detained in a car for seven hours. He and several other Syrians were taken by bus to the southern city of Antakya, where they spent the night at a police station without food or drink.

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The next day, he was given a choice: pay a fine equivalent to \$644 and spend three months in jail, or be deported. He chose deportation.

He then had to sign a number of documents in Turkish which he was told said he could not return to Turkey for the next five years. Another document which he shared with the AP had Arabic translation. It affirmed that he is voluntarily returning to Syria even after he was informed by authorities about the security situation in his country.

Abdulkader, now in the northern Syrian town of Afrin, says he never wants to go back to Turkey.

"We went there and got deported. What more humiliation can there be?" he said. "I will search for work and will find work here."

In Istanbul, some Syrians are hiding from the intensified controls.

Yousef Abbas, a 26-year-old from Aleppo, is registered in the city of Izmir but works in Istanbul's vast tourism sector. "I am afraid. I don't go out. Why? Because I would get caught," he said earlier this week.

If he goes back to Izmir, he would be separated from his wife and children, registered in Istanbul.

Didem Danis, president of Association for Migration Research in Istanbul, said that in the first years of the Syrians' arrival, "there was quite a positive attitude toward the newcomers."

"But this has been going down throughout the years, and in the last two years especially as the Turkish economy goes down."

Mohammad Wael, a Syrian from Damascus who is registered in Istanbul, works in a kebab shop in the city's "Little Syria" district. He calls the treatment of Syrians "unacceptable."

"If you go to the pharmacy, they will point at us as 'those are Syrians.' If you walk in the street, they will point at us, 'those are Syrians.' If we enter a supermarket, they will point at us, 'those are Syrians,'" he said. "Syrians are like the Turks, both are human beings and both are Muslims."

Associated Press writers Sarah El Deeb in Beirut and Zeynep Bilginsoy in Istanbul contributed to this report.

## Asian stocks follow Wall Street lower before US Fed release

By **JOE McDONALD**  
AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asia stock markets followed Wall Street lower Wednesday as investors looked ahead to a speech by the Federal Reserve chairman for signs of possible plans for more U.S. interest rate cuts.

Benchmarks in Tokyo, Shanghai and Australia declined while South Korea advanced.

U.S. stocks fell Tuesday after another slide in bond yields and a mixed batch of corporate earnings. Financial sector stocks led the declines.

Investors looked ahead to the Fed's release Wednesday of notes from its policymaking meeting last month and a speech Friday by chairman Jerome Powell.



**In this Aug. 19, 2019, file photo specialist Stephen Naughton, left, and trader Michael Milano work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks are opening slightly lower on Wall Street on Tuesday, Aug. 20, as major U.S. indexes give back a bit of the ground they won over the previous three days.** (AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)

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Markets have "entered a holding pattern" ahead of Powell's speech at an annual gathering in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, said Jeffrey Halley of Oanda in a report.

Investors expect Powell to signal the Fed "is about to embark on a reinvigorated wave of easing," said Halley. However, he said U.S. data "simply does not support the need for an aggressive easing cycle."

The Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.1% to 2,875.63 and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 shed 0.4% to 20,597.21. Hong Kong's Hang Seng declined 0.3% to 26,161.92.

Seoul's Kospi gained 0.2% to 1,965.02 while Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 fell 1% to 6,477.60. Taiwan and Indonesian markets advanced while New Zealand and Singapore retreated.

On Wall Street, the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index snapped a three-day winning streak and fell 0.8% to 2,900.51. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slid 0.7% to 25,962.44. The Nasdaq composite dropped 0.7% to 7,948.56.

The U.S. market has been volatile this month as investors try to parse conflicting signals on the U.S. economy and determine whether a recession is on the horizon. A key concern is that the U.S.-Chinese tariff war will weigh on global economic growth.

Some chipmakers rose on Monday that the Trump administration delayed enforcement of export curbs on sales of U.S. technology Chinese telecom equipment maker Huawei Technologies Ltd. Qualcomm added 1.6%.

Last week, many stock indexes around the world hit their lowest points of the year before rallying. Analysts say the concerns that drove that sell-off could resurface at any time.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude gained 18 cents to \$56.31 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract shed 1 cent on Tuesday to close at \$56.13. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 24 cents to \$60.27 per barrel in London. The contract advanced 27 cents the previous session to \$60.03.

CURRENCY: The dollar gained to 106.46 yen from Tuesday's 106.22. The euro was little-changed at \$1.1099.

## Facebook rolls out tool to block off-Facebook data gathering

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Soon, you could get fewer familiar ads following you around the internet — or at least on Facebook.

Facebook is launching a long-promised tool that lets you limit what the social network can gather about you on outside websites and apps.

The company said Tuesday that it is adding a section where you can see the activity that Facebook tracks outside its service via its "like" buttons and other means. You can choose to turn off the tracking; otherwise, tracking will continue the same way it has been.

Formerly known as "clear history," the tool will now go by the slightly clunkier moniker "off-Facebook activity." The feature launches in South Korea, Ireland and Spain on Tuesday, consistent with Facebook's tendency to launch features in smaller markets first. The company did not give a timeline for when it might expand it to the U.S. and other countries, only that it will be in "coming months."

What you do off Facebook is among the many pieces of information that Facebook uses to target ads to people. Blocking the tracking could mean fewer ads that seem familiar — for example, for a pair of shoes you decided not to buy, or a nonprofit you donated money to. But it won't change the actual number of ads you'll see on Facebook. Nor will it change how your actions on Facebook are used to show you ads.

Even if you turn off tracking, Facebook will still gather data on your off-Facebook activities. It will simply disconnect those activities from your Facebook profile. Facebook says businesses won't know you clicked on their ad — but they'll know that someone did. So Facebook can still tell advertisers how well their ads are performing.

Jasmine Enberg, social media analyst at research firm eMarketer, said the tool is part of Facebook's efforts to be clearer to users on how it tracks them and likely "an effort to stay one step ahead of regulators, in

the U.S. and abroad.”

Facebook faces increasing governmental scrutiny over its privacy practices, including a record \$5 billion fine from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission for mishandling user data. Boosting its privacy protections could help the company pre-empt regulation and further punishment. But it's a delicate dance, as Facebook still depends on highly targeted advertising for nearly all of its revenue.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced the “clear history” feature more than a year ago. The company said building it has been a complicated technical process, which is also the reason for the slow, gradual rollout. Facebook said it sought input from users, privacy experts and policymakers along the way, which led to some changes. For instance, users will be able to disconnect their activity from a specific websites or apps, or reconnect to a specific site while keeping other future tracking turned off.

You'll be able to access the feature by going to your Facebook settings and scrolling down to “your Facebook information.” The “off-Facebook activity” section will be there when it launches.

The tool will let you delete your past browsing history from Facebook and prevent it from keeping track of your future clicks, taps and website visits going forward. Doing so means that Facebook won't use information gleaned from apps and websites to target ads to you on Facebook, Instagram and Messenger. It also won't use such information to show you posts that Facebook thinks you might like based on your offsite activity, such as news articles shared by your friends.

Stephanie Max, product manager at Facebook, said the company believes the tool could affect revenue, though she didn't say how much. But she said giving people “transparency and control” is important.

Enberg, the eMarketer analyst, said the ultimate impact “depends on consumer adoption. It takes a proactive step for consumers to go into their Facebook settings and turn on the feature.”

People who say they value privacy often don't actually do anything about it, she said, so it's possible too few people will use this tool to have a meaningful effect on Facebook's bottom line.



**In this July 30, 2019, file photo, the social media application, Facebook is displayed on Apple's App Store. Facebook is launching a long-promised tool that lets users block the social network from gathering information about them on outside websites and apps. Facebook said Tuesday, Aug. 20, that it is adding a place where users can see the activity that Facebook tracks outside its service. If they want, they can turn it off.** (AP Photo/Amr Alfiky)

## Philly police head resigns as bias suit roils department

By MARK SCOLFARO Associated Press

Philadelphia's police commissioner resigned Tuesday amid allegations that members of his department engaged in sexual harassment and racial and gender discrimination against two women serving in the ranks.

Mayor Jim Kenney said in a news release he was disappointed to lose Commissioner Richard Ross Jr., but in light of the new allegations, he said Ross' “resignation is in the best interest of the department.”

Kenney spokeswoman Deana Gamble said Ross offered his resignation after Kenney learned details of the allegations by the women, including one who says she once had an affair with Ross.

The corporal and patrol officer made the allegations against several department employees. Gamble said Ross knew about the alleged harassment and failed to respond adequately.

An amended version of the women's federal lawsuit was filed Monday.

"The mayor wanted to figure out what occurred," Gamble said. "After he read the complaint, the mayor decided to accept his resignation."

Ross, who is black, joined the department in 1989 and had served as commissioner since January 2016. He did not respond to messages seeking comment.

The lawsuit alleges discrimination, a hostile work environment, retaliation and other counts. It says the women "have suffered continuous and ongoing sexual harassment and discrimination by both co-workers and supervisors," including groping, sexual comments and sexual advances, and that they faced retaliation for complaining about it.

The Associated Press generally does not identify people who say they are victims of a sexual assault such as groping.

The lawsuit, in which Ross and the city are among the defendants, was filed by a corporal and an officer, one black, the other black Hispanic. It claimed Ross had had a two-year relationship with one of the women, an affair that ended in 2011.

The women's civil lawyer, Ian Bryson, said they had not expected Ross to resign.

"If that's what it takes to shed light on this issue, then we see it as a win for working people," Bryson said.

The lawsuit said when one of the women told Ross she had been subjected to sexual harassment and a hostile work environment, he responded brusquely.

"Commissioner Ross declined to act on her report, and instead suggested, 'So why don't you just order his dumb ass to go sit down and get out of your face officer,'" the lawsuit alleged.

Kenney noted a sexual harassment prevention policy and efforts to prevent workplace discrimination and harassment were implemented a year ago.

"While rolling out a new policy understandably takes time, I do not believe the Police Department has taken the necessary actions to address the underlying cultural issues that too often negatively impact women — especially women of color," Kenney said in a statement.

The mayor said an unspecified independent entity will investigate the recent allegations and recommend how to address discrimination and harassment within the police agency.

Asked if the city has taken any personnel action related to the lawsuit and Ross' departure, Gamble responded that an internal investigation is currently underway.

The city police have had a checkered relationship with the people they serve, and this summer about



**In this July 18, 2019 file photo Philadelphia Police Commissioner Richard Ross speaks during a news conference in Philadelphia. The mayor of Philadelphia says on Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2019, that Ross is resigning over new allegations of sexual harassment and racial and gender discrimination against others in the department. Mayor Jim Kenney says that Richard Ross has been a terrific asset to the police department and the city as a whole and that he's disappointed to lose him.** (AP Photo/Matt Rourke, File)

100 people protested outside police headquarters, demanding action in response to reports some officers had made racist and violent social-media posts.

Ross said the day he took the job that it was a "challenging time for law enforcement" and acknowledged the department had "some issues."

"We have to confront them and we have to be bold about it," Ross said in 2016.

John McNesby, president of the police union, called Ross "a shining example that hard work and dedication can lead you to the top of your profession" and said he served with honor and respect.

Just last week, Kenney called Ross the best police commissioner in America after a gunman's long standoff with police.

But during that standoff, hostility between residents and police was evident, as residents harassed officers trying to keep peace at the scene.

Kenney named Deputy Commissioner Christine Coulter to serve as acting commissioner during a search for Ross' replacement.

## 2015 North Dakota liquid gas spill much bigger than reported

By JAMES MacPHERSON Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A 2015 pipeline spill of liquid natural gas in western North Dakota initially reported as just 10 gallons is at least hundreds of thousands of gallons larger and may take another decade to clean up, state health officials said Tuesday.

Oklahoma-based Oneok Partners LP reported the 10-gallon spill of natural gas liquids, or "condensate," from a pipeline at its Garden Creek gas plant near Watford City in July 2015. A report by the North Dakota Health Department said "ground around the pipe was saturated with natural gas condensate of an unknown volume."

State Environmental Quality Chief Dave Glatt said the company reported last October that it had recovered 240,000 gallons of the liquid gas and that cleanup was ongoing.

"It's contained on site and we will continue to work with the company to make sure it's cleaned up," Glatt said.

But the Health Department never updated its report to reflect the severity of the spill. Glatt said doing so was not required and would have been "just wild guesses anyway."

The larger-than-reported size of the spill was first reported Monday by DeSmog, a blog dedicated to fighting climate change skepticism, which reported that the spill could be as large as 11 million gallons. The blog cited an unnamed person who provided a draft document on a cleanup plan.

Oneok said in a statement Tuesday that the document was done by a consultant "as part of their design process to address the release." The company said the actual amounts of the release aren't known.

"The volume estimates included in the document were hypothetical assumptions and were used solely as a basis for the vendor's equipment design to complete the response action efforts," the company said.

Oneok said the release was caused by "hairline cracks" in a 2-inch-wide underground pipe at the facility. Regulators don't know how long the line had been leaking, but they said it was repaired immediately after being discovered.

"Repairs and modifications have been made to help ensure that another release does not occur," the statement said. "Due to the below ground nature of the release, it is impossible to determine the actual volume released with any level of certainty or accuracy."

State environmental scientist Bill Suess visited the site the Tuesday, the day after the blog post appeared. He estimated the affected area to be about 240,000 square feet. Suess said some groundwater was affected at the site but the spill didn't reach beyond the facility's boundaries.

The site can't be excavated due to extensive piping beneath the natural gas factory, Suess said. Instead, the company is drilling "bore holes" to recover the liquid natural gas, which tends to evaporate when exposed to air.

Suess estimated the cleanup could take "another five to 10 years."



The Oneok plant was completed in 2012. It processes gas from western North Dakota's oil patch into products such as methane, propane, butane, ethane and natural gasoline, which is piped to out-of-state markets, the company has said.

## **SUPREME COURT NOTEBOOK: Gender pronouns part of LGBT fight** **By MARK SHERMAN and JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dozens of legal briefs supporting fired funeral director Aimee Stephens at the Supreme Court use "she" and "her" to refer to the transgender woman.

So does the appeals court ruling in favor of Stephens that held that workplace discrimination against transgender people is illegal under federal civil rights law.

But in more than 110 pages urging the Supreme Court to reverse that decision, the Trump administration and the Michigan funeral home where Stephens worked avoid gender pronouns, repeatedly using Stephens' name.

Stephens' case is one of two major fights over LGBT rights that will be argued at the high court on Oct. 8. The other tests whether discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation also violates the provision of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, known as Title 7, that prohibits employers from discriminating on the basis of sex. The cases are expected to be decided by next spring, during the presidential election campaign.

Decisions about gender pronouns may seem minor, but they appear to reflect the larger issues involved in this high-stakes battle.

John Bursch, the Alliance Defending Freedom lawyer who will argue on behalf of Harris Funeral Homes, wrote, "Out of respect for Stephens and following this Court's lead in *Farmer v. Brennan* ... Harris tries to avoid use of pronouns and sex-specific terms when referring to Stephens." *Farmer v. Brennan* was a 1994 decision that did not use gender pronouns to describe a transsexual prison inmate who had been assaulted by other inmates.

The administration's court filing arguing that Title 7 "does not prohibit discrimination against transgender persons based on their transgender status" offers no explanation for the absence of gender pronouns for Stephens. A Justice Department spokeswoman did not respond to an email seeking comment.

"It's sad that neither the funeral home nor the Department of Justice can bring themselves to be minimally respectful of Aimee. But the real tragedy is that our government is urging the Supreme Court to rule that firing workers because they are transgender is perfectly legal," said James Esseks, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender & HIV Project. The ACLU represents Stephens at the Supreme Court.

Many organizations, including The Associated Press, use the gender pronouns an individual prefers.

That was the case when the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in Stephens' favor. "We refer to Stephens using female pronouns, in accordance with the preference she has expressed," Judge Karen Moore wrote.

In a similar case that reached the Supreme Court just before the 2016 election, a Virginia county school board fought transgender high school student Gavin Grimm, initially identified only by his initials, over his desire to use the boys' bathroom. The court eventually dismissed the case when President Donald Trump was elected and withdrew Obama administration policy that favored transgender students.

"This petition uses 'he,' 'him,' and 'his' to respect G.G.'s desire to be referred to with male pronouns. That choice does not concede anything on the legal question of what G.G.'s 'sex' is for purposes of Title IX and its implementing regulation," conservative lawyer Kyle Duncan wrote in representing the school board at the Supreme Court. Duncan has since been named by Trump to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The court's long recess doesn't end until October, but just as students get back to hitting the books with their return to school, Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Neil Gorsuch will be pitching them. Each has a book due out in September.

Sotomayor's 32-page children's book, "Just Ask!: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You" will be published on Sept. 3. It's about kids with life challenges such as diabetes, which Sotomayor was diagnosed with as a child.

The book is her fourth in her 10 years on the court and, like the others, will be released in both English and Spanish.

Gorsuch's book, "A Republic, If You Can Keep It," comes out a week later. The 352-page book is Gorsuch's reflections, speeches and essays on the Constitution. The title comes from a quote attributed to Benjamin Franklin at the end of the Constitutional Convention in 1787.

Gorsuch's book is his first as a justice. He wrote "The Future of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia" in 2006.

To promote his book, Gorsuch will speak at two presidential libraries in September: the Richard Nixon Library in California and the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Texas. He'll also give a book talk at the National Archives in Washington. Sotomayor, meanwhile, will be making September appearances in suburban Atlanta and Chicago.

## Trump steadily fulfills goals on religious right wish list

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When Donald Trump assumed the presidency, conservative religious leaders drew up "wish lists" of steps they hoped he'd take to oppose abortion and rein in the LGBTQ-rights movement. With a flurry of recent actions, Trump's administration is now winning their praise for aggressively fulfilling many of their goals.

Mat Staver, president of the legal advocacy organization Liberty Counsel, said Trump has fulfilled about 90% of the goals on a list that Staver and other conservative leaders compiled.

"In the first two years of his administration, he's achieved more than all of the presidents combined since Ronald Reagan," Staver said. "He's been the most pro-religious freedom and pro-life president in modern history."

One of the most dramatic steps — hailed by conservatives and decried by liberals — came this week when the Department of Health and Human Services implemented a new rule for the federal family planning program known as Title X. Planned Parenthood, long a target of religious conservatives because of its role as the leading U.S. abortion provider, quit the program — walking away from tens of millions of dollars in grants — rather than comply with a new rule prohibiting clinics from referring women for abortions.

Last week, the Labor Department proposed a rule that is expected to shield federal contractors from discrimination complaints regarding hiring and firing decisions motivated by religious beliefs. Critics say the rule, if implemented, would enable employers to discriminate against LGBTQ people.

On Friday, the Justice Department filed a brief telling the Supreme Court that federal law allows firing workers for being transgender. The brief is related to three cases that the high court will hear in its upcoming term related to LGBTQ discrimination in the workplace.

Earlier this year, Health and Human Services issued a waiver allowing a state-contracted foster care agency in South Carolina to deny services to same-sex and non-Christian families. HHS also moved to revoke newly won health care discrimination protections for transgender people.

These and other actions aimed at curtailing abortion rights and LGBTQ rights have helped many conservative Christians overlook other aspects of Trump's presidency, such as his often-divisive rhetoric on Twitter and at rallies.

The Rev. Robert Jeffress, pastor of the Southern Baptist megachurch First Baptist Dallas and a frequent guest at the White House, predicted that Trump would win more evangelical votes in 2020 than he did in 2016, when they helped provide his margin of victory.

"When he ran in 2016 and promised pro-life, pro-religious freedom policies, most evangelicals who voted for him didn't know whether he would or could fulfill those promises," Jeffress said. "When they look back now, they see he checked off all of those goals. ... He'll win by an even larger margin on basis of promises kept."

The same phenomenon being celebrated by religious conservatives is viewed with alarm by liberal activists.

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For the religious right, "Every day is Christmas," said Rachel Laser, president & CEO of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. She worries that the mantra of "religious freedom" is being used to protect some Americans while hurting others.

"It can't be religious freedom just for white evangelical Christians — it has to be religious freedom for all of us," she said. "We're witnessing divisiveness as Trump and his cronies and religious extremists across the country continue to chip away at church-state separation."

The American Civil Liberties Union is among several organizations seeking to block some of the administration's moves in court.

"This is essentially the wish list of groups that have a very extreme and discriminatory perspective on what religious liberty means," said Ian Thompson, the ACLU's senior legislative representative in Washington.

"It's important not to see any one of these policies in isolation but to see them as part of a coordinated effort by the administration across agencies," Thompson said. He urged the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives to go on record against the policies, and investigate those which seem particularly problematic.

From both the right and left, activists noted that Trump's numerous appointments of federal judges have been welcomed by the religious right as a potential long-term boost to its causes.

"We are heartened by the appointment of constitutionalist judges, including two excellent Supreme Court justices (Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh), and look forward to more such appointments throughout the federal court system," said Bruce Hausknecht, judicial analyst for Focus on the Family.

Peter Montgomery of People for the American Way, which is often critical of religious conservative groups, said their Trump-supported agenda "is bad news for women in the U.S. and around the world, for LGBTQ people, and for the principle that taxpayer money should not be used to fund discrimination."

"Trump is advancing religious right priorities in the short term through administrative actions and in the long term through his appointment of young, right-wing ideologues to lifetime positions on the federal judiciary," Montgomery added in an email.

The Trump administration actions represent a sharp turnaround from the presidency of Barack Obama, who supported abortion rights and same-sex marriage, mandated that contraception be covered by the Affordable Care Act, enabled transgender people to serve openly in the military, and issued guidance to school districts that they should let transgender students use the bathrooms of their choice.

Alliance Defending Freedom is among the conservative legal groups that has litigated against numerous Obama-era initiatives and has welcomed Trump's moves to reverse them.

"The defense of life, free speech, and religious liberty should never be subject to political and cultural whims," said Kristen Waggoner, an ADF senior vice president. "They are constitutional guarantees, and we are grateful that this administration recognizes that reality and is taking serious steps to correct injustice and protect all Americans."

## **An apology, a packed rally and a plan: 24 hours with Warren**

**By KATHLEEN HENNESSEY and ELANA SCHOR Associated Press**

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Elizabeth Warren started the day with an apology, repeating her regrets for her past claims of Native American heritage. She ended it with a clear sign that Democrats aren't holding the mistake against her — her largest crowd yet.

The arc of the day Monday captured the strengths and struggles of a presidential candidate who has made significant headway in a Democratic primary otherwise notable for its stagnation. The Massachusetts senator stands apart by having demonstrably improved her standing since her party's White House field solidified in the spring while her competitors have risen and dipped in the national conversation and polls.

Some reasons for Warren's rise are easy to spot. When she landed in Minnesota on Monday, her first stop in a state Republicans are eyeing to win next year, she brought a forward-looking message, a sophisticated ground operation, a folksy persona and an upbeat outlook.

"It looks like Minnesota is ready for some change in Washington!" Warren said to a crowd of several

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thousand, an enviable crowd size for any Democrat, including Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, a rival.

But Warren's challenges were just as clear. She continues to have no easy response to President Donald Trump's nickname for her — Pocahontas — an insult that, despite her efforts to move past her previous claims of tribal ancestry, reminds Democrats already nervous about her general-election viability of her biggest political unforced error. And the voters who filled a college green in St. Paul were overwhelmingly white, a reminder that she has not yet secured the diverse coalition she needs to win the nomination.

Warren on Tuesday took steps to expand her support with black voters, who largely favored Vice President Joe Biden in a poll released last week by the Pew Research Center, by unveiling a detailed criminal justice proposal. Underscoring the importance of filling a gap on her long list of plans for America's ills, particularly for voters of color, Warren held a meeting with criminal justice reform proponents in Minneapolis.

The current criminal justice system "is not working," Warren said at the Tuesday event, and "it's not serving the whole country."

Her proposal includes a tripling of funding for the Justice Department's Office of Civil Rights, designed to increase oversight of police departments dealing with high rates of officer-involved violence, and a proposal to expand the rights of incarcerated individuals who want to contest their imprisonment.

Connecting with black voters isn't the only challenge Warren's campaign faced head-on this week. On Monday, she opened up remarks to a Native American forum in Iowa with a direct apology for past claims of tribal ancestry.

Her remarks were well received by tribal members in the audience who said they had already moved on from the matter.

"That's old news," said Gary Funmaker, of Black River Falls, Wisconsin.

National Congress of American Indians CEO Kevin Allis, a tribal member of the Forest County Potawatomi Community, said in an interview that his group is not in a "position to make judgments on what people believed when they were growing up" and added that Warren is one of several contenders who "are willing to take on our issues and address them."

Having Native American defenders at her side could help Warren when Trump, inevitably, continues to mock her. The president last week promised to revive the derisive nickname, even suggesting that he'd misjudged his timing in hitting Warren with it too early.

There was no mention of the flap by the time Warren arrived in Minnesota.

Warren beat her chief rivals — Biden, California Sen. Kamala Harris and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders — to the state known for its progressive tradition, high voter turnout and, this year, as a possible battleground in the general election. Minnesota's primary election is March 3, but absentee voting begins Jan. 17, two weeks before the Iowa caucuses.

Warren's event was billed as a town hall at Macalester College, a private liberal arts school. But it was moved outside to accommodate the large crowd, and Warren focused on her biography-heavy campaign speech, sprinkled with stories of her Oklahoma childhood propelling a call for "structural change."

Unlike Sanders, Warren has not anchored her campaign on her support for single-payer health care and rarely mentions Trump. She spends much of her time on a proposed "wealth tax" on the ultrarich. The crowd responded with chants of "Two cents!" — a reference to the amount of every dollar Warren wants the rich to pay for universal preschool and child care.

Her campaign appears poised to capitalize on the enthusiasm. Attendees at Monday's rally texted the campaign to gain entrance, helping Warren build her list of supporters and potential small-dollar donors. She did not let the crowd size deter her from her standing promise to take a selfie with supporters who wait in line for one. The wait on Monday was long. Warren's campaign says she took 2,500 photos after the rally, sticking around for nearly three hours.

She won praise from attendees for her focus and passion. But as other presidential candidates have learned, large crowds in August hardly guarantee victories in the spring.

"I think the problem is she might be too radical for people. Even though she has good plans," said Janet Plotsker, of St. Louis Park, a Minneapolis suburb.

"Not for me," she clarified. "I would vote for a cockroach if they could beat Trump."

Schor reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Steve Karnowski contributed to this report from Minneapolis.

## Execs starting to worry about tariffs' effects on consumers

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN and JOSH BOAK AP Business Writers

Americans continue to shop, vacation and buy cars at a brisk clip. But corporate America is starting to worry out loud that President Donald Trump's tariffs will depress consumer spending and undermine the economy.

Home Depot, the nation's largest home improvement chain, said as much on Tuesday, when it reported higher-than-expected profits for the quarter but cut its sales expectations for the year, citing the tumbling price of lumber and the "potential impacts to the U.S. consumer arising from recently announced tariffs."

That marked at least the second time in a week that retail executives raised the fear that consumers might pull back on spending.

Last Wednesday, Macy's warned that its customers have no appetite for higher prices. The department store chain has already raised prices on luggage, housewares and furniture because of the 25% import duties imposed in May. CEO Jeff Gennette said Macy's is trying to offset the costs of looming tariffs on shoes and clothing.

So far, consumer spending has insulated the U.S. economy from the slump that is taking hold in such places as China and Germany. But Trump's trade wars with Beijing and other key trading partners have heightened anxieties.

Dozens of American companies have pared their profit and sales expectations. The markets have swung wildly. Barometers of housing and manufacturing have slumped. Consumer confidence, though healthy on a historical level, dropped sharply this month.

And that is especially troubling, because consumer spending accounts for roughly 70% of economic activity.

That recent slump in consumer confidence has raised the odds of a U.S. recession in the next year to 45% from 40% in mid-July, according to analysts for JPMorgan Chase.

If consumers are to keep fueling economic growth, they might need reassurance that Trump won't escalate his trade wars.

"If trade policy tensions ease and the labor market remains solid, we would likely see a rebound in consumer sentiment," said Jesse Edgerton, a senior economist at JPMorgan Chase.

Unlike Macy's, which, like all department stores, faces tumultuous changes in how and how much people shop, Home Depot is doing brisk business. Mortgage rates are hovering at historic lows, and the aisles of Home Depot are bustling with homeowners.

But housing starts have tumbled 3.1% so far this year, according to the Census Bureau. This has reduced demand for lumber and caused wood prices to tumble roughly 20% over the past 12 months, according to government figures.

In an otherwise solid period for overall retail sales, purchases at building material and garden supply stores have increased a meager 0.4% year-to-date, according to the Census Bureau. Sales at furniture stores have slumped 0.5%.

The Trump administration delayed most of the tariffs it planned to impose on Chinese products last week and dropped others altogether, responding to pressure from businesses and growing fears that a trade war is threatening the U.S. economy.

The administration was also mindful that the latest round of tariffs would raise consumer prices during the crucial holiday shopping season, so it delayed nearly 60% of them until Dec. 15.

That eased the risk of an immediate shock but raised concerns about what comes next.

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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 21, the 233rd day of 2019. There are 132 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 21, 2000, rescue efforts to reach the sunken Russian nuclear submarine Kursk ended with divers announcing none of the 118 sailors had survived.

On this date:

In 1609, Galileo Galilei demonstrated his new telescope to a group of officials atop the Campanile in Venice.

In 1831, Nat Turner launched a violent slave rebellion in Virginia resulting in the deaths of at least 55 whites. (Turner was later executed.)

In 1863, pro-Confederate raiders attacked Lawrence, Kansas, massacring the men and destroying the town's buildings.

In 1911, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" was stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris. (The painting was recovered two years later in Italy.)

In 1912, the Boy Scouts of America named its first Eagle Scout, Arthur Rose Eldred of Troop 1 in Rockville Centre, N.Y.

In 1940, exiled Communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky died in a Mexican hospital from wounds inflicted by an assassin the day before.

In 1963, martial law was declared in South Vietnam as police and army troops began a violent crackdown on Buddhist anti-government protesters.

In 1983, Philippine opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino Jr., ending a self-imposed exile in the United States, was shot dead moments after stepping off a plane at Manila International Airport. The musical play "La Cage Aux Folles" opened on Broadway.

In 1991, the hard-line coup against Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev collapsed in the face of a popular uprising led by Russian Federation President Boris N. Yeltsin.

In 1992, an 11-day siege began at the cabin of white separatist Randy Weaver in Ruby Ridge, Idaho, as government agents tried to arrest Weaver for failing to appear in court on charges of selling two illegal sawed-off shotguns; on the first day of the siege, Weaver's teenage son, Samuel, and Deputy U.S. Marshal William Degan were killed.

In 1993, in a serious setback for NASA, engineers lost contact with the Mars Observer spacecraft as it was about to reach the red planet on a \$980 million mission.

In 1995, ABC News settled a \$10 billion libel suit by apologizing to Philip Morris for reporting the tobacco giant had manipulated the amount of nicotine in its cigarettes.

Ten years ago: A wildfire broke out north of Athens, Greece; in the days that followed, the blaze spread, charring 80 square miles before being extinguished. A high-level delegation of North Korean officials paid their respects to late former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung. Leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted to lift a ban that prohibited sexually active gays and lesbians from serving as ministers.

Five years ago: Calling it a "miraculous day," an American doctor infected with Ebola left his isolation unit at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta; Dr. Kent Brantly warmly hugged his physicians and nurses, showing the world that he posed no public health threat one month after getting sick with the virus. Gov. Jay Nixon ordered the Missouri National Guard to begin withdrawing from Ferguson, where nightly scenes of unrest had erupted since a white police officer fatally shot an unarmed black 18-year-old nearly two weeks earlier.

One year ago: Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer and fixer, pleaded guilty to campaign-finance violations and other charges; Cohen said Trump directed him to arrange the payment of hush money to porn star Stormy Daniels and a former Playboy model to fend off damage to his White House bid. Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort was found guilty of eight financial crimes in

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the first trial victory of the special counsel investigation into Trump's associates. Republican Cong. Duncan Hunter of California and his wife were charged with using more than \$250,000 in campaign funds for personal expenses such as family trips to Italy and Hawaii. The body of college student Mollie Tibbetts was found in an Iowa cornfield; authorities say they were led to the body by a farmworker from Mexico who was suspected of being in the country illegally and that he confessed to kidnapping and killing her while she was out running.

Today's Birthdays: Former NFL player and general manager Pete Retzlaff is 88. Actor-director Melvin Van Peebles is 87. Playwright Mart Crowley is 84. Singer Kenny Rogers is 81. Actor Clarence Williams III is 80. Rock-and-roll musician James Burton is 80. Singer Harold Reid (The Statler Brothers) is 80. Singer Jackie DeShannon is 78. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Willie Lanier is 74. Actress Patty McCormack is 74. Pop singer-musician Carl Giammarese is 72. Actress Loretta Devine is 70. NBC newsman Harry Smith is 68. Singer Glenn Hughes is 67. Country musician Nick Kane is 65. Actress Kim Cattrall is 63. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim McMahon is 60. Actress Cleo King is 57. Retired MLB All-Star John Wetteland is 53. Rock singer Serj Tankian (System of a Down) is 52. Figure skater Josee Chouinard is 50. Actress Carrie-Anne Moss is 49. MLB player-turned-manager Craig Counsell is 49. Rock musician Liam Howlett (Prodigy) is 48. Actress Alicia Witt is 44. Singer Kelis is 40. Actor Diego Klattenhoff is 40. TV personality Brody Jenner is 36. Singer Melissa Schuman is 35. Olympic gold medal sprinter Usain Bolt is 33. Actor Carlos Pratts is 33. Actor-comedian Brooks Wheelan is 33. Actor Cody Kasch is 32. Country singer Kacey Musgraves is 31. Actress Hayden Panettiere is 30. Actor RJ Mitte is 27. Actor Maxim Knight is 20.

Thought for Today: "I don't measure America by its achievement but by its potential." — Shirley Chisholm, American politician (1924-2005).